

TOOT HILL SCHOOL

CURRICULUM INTENT



We aim to provide an ambitious curriculum which will be carefully crafted by our subject experts to ensure that all students secure high levels of subject specific knowledge and expertise, within an exciting, broad curriculum experience, complimented by a uniquely diverse and extensive extra-curricular and enrichment programme of the highest quality.

By engaging with this curriculum experience Toot Hill students develop into well informed, responsibly, determined, tolerant and kind young people who are intellectually curious and creative in their thinking and leave us to become highly successful and happy young adults who take pride in their ability to contribute significantly to our local community and the global society.

Ambitious Curriculum Design:

Our whole school curriculum is designed to recognise and build purposefully on our students' prior attainment and experiences, and provide the highest quality learning opportunities for all. It will encompass and go well beyond the knowledge base of the National Curriculum and exam specifications; we will choose to teach our students the most challenging and diverse knowledge across all subjects, through curricula that allow all students access to the highest levels of understanding. Scaffolding this challenge appropriately will be a key focus to allow all of our students to flourish. Each curriculum will be enriched with strategically selected contextual knowledge and understanding woven through each learning cycle.

Educational research will be embedded within the design of each curriculum and its co-ordinated schemes of learning and lesson plans. Curricula will be carefully and coherently planned so the acquisition of knowledge is purposefully sequenced, in a timely fashion, to allow students to develop a cumulative and deeper understanding that enables them to become highly skilled learners who can confidently build more complex ideas by linking wider knowledge, through independent thinking, in the longer term.

The breadth of our curriculum will offer a very well rounded core education for all and will make it possible to follow diverse pathways post 16 and 18. Whilst we place strong emphasis on the core academic subjects that provide essential preparation for further study, our students enjoy both the full English Baccalaureate suite of subjects together with Music, Drama, Art, PE, D&T, Food Technology, RE and PSHCE. To further inspire and capture the interest of all students at an individual level, they have the opportunity to study from an additional eight GCSE courses including Citizenship, Economics and Fashion & Design and eight further Level 2 Vocational Courses including Engineering and Performing Arts and Catering at KS4. At KS5 students choose from over 35 different subjects with an appropriate balance of facilitating subjects, A levels and Vocational courses on offer, including academic extras such as Core Maths and EPQ.

High levels of literacy and oracy are modelled and fostered at all times. Literacy and numeracy skill development will have a central focus in our subject specific curricula that are co-designed and strategically planned by our middle leaders, teachers and Nova Subject Directors. Whole school literacy and numeracy strategies promote the continual development of both for all students throughout all year groups and intensive, bespoke literacy and numeracy support is also provided for those students who need it to access our curriculum.

At Toot Hill all students, from Year 7 – 13, engage with our Careers curriculum through our careers programme of active tutoring, career focused days, enrichment opportunities and subject specific links to career pathways. Similarly our PSHCE programme is expertly planned to support the age appropriate needs of our students through the key stages.

Teaching and Learning:

Our teachers act with integrity and empathy as they strive to embody our Work Hard; Be Kind ethos. They also take responsibility for providing the highest standards of learning and modelling the highest standards of conduct for our students. All staff strive to create purposeful classrooms that are busy and determined learning spaces, where learning towards aspirational goals is regularly checked and live feedback given to noticeably uplift the quality of students' understanding.

Toot Hill teachers have a strong knowledge base and are supported to continually enhance this knowledge and keep it up to date. They value knowledge; expecting students to learn facts and figures through deliberate practice in order to form a solid foundation of information on which to draw from when considering more complex concepts. As a team we are committed to fostering a variety of teaching styles that enable individual staff members to flourish and students to experience a range of relevant learning experiences, within and across all subject disciplines. As well as a passion for their subject and expert knowledge, our teachers will have a developing understanding of how the human mind learns and the science of memory, and this underpins planning and effective practice in the classroom. We know that complex understanding requires deep and diverse knowledge, and that students remember best after extensive and deliberate practice, with intermittent opportunities to retrieve and recall, and this will strongly drive our curricula design.

Extra Curricular Provision:

Our weekly extra-curricular programme is designed to both support our students' academic learning and enrich and broaden their experience. A balanced menu of extended study in the form of master classes, 'keep up not catch up' sessions to support learning and Homework Hall, balances an extensive enrichment provision of Sport, Music, STEM, Cooking and Art to name but a few of the 60+ sessions that run each week after school.

A wide range of local, national and international trips enhance this provision further as does our traditional 'Activities Week' at the end of each academic year, which provides the chance for students to immerse themselves in their passion and get the chance to try something new or travel somewhere they have not been before.

Ethos:

As well as prioritising the intellectual development of all students, our whole school experience supports their physical and mental development; spiritual and cultural awareness and nurtures all to achieve their true potential within our Work Hard; Be Kind ethos.

Students' experience of our curriculum enhances their understand of the fundamental British values that underpin our school values: democracy and individual liberty through our strong student voice and ambassador scheme, RESPECT rules to keep each other safe and our complete commitment to building mutual respect and tolerance so we combat discrimination.

Our ethos encourages our students to take pride in themselves, their actions, their school and their community, developing the following traits and qualities within their unique personalities:

- Sense of PURPOSE
- Sense of RESPONSIBILITY
- INTEGRITY
- DETERMINATION
- EMPATHY

All interactions within our school have these qualities at their core and we are all committed to fostering their growth in everyone within our school, staff and students alike.